

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1401

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Janice M. Holder of Memphis upon becoming Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the members of this General Assembly to salute those eminent jurists of the State of Tennessee who, through their extraordinary efforts and uncommon dedication, have risen to the position of Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, such a distinguished jurist is Justice Janice M. Holder of Memphis, who was recently selected by her peers on the Tennessee Supreme Court to serve as Chief Justice, becoming the first woman to ever hold this esteemed title; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Tennessee Supreme Court since her appointment in December of 1996, Chief Justice Holder has ably served the State of Tennessee as a jurist since 1990, when she won election to serve as Circuit Court Judge for the Thirtieth Judicial District at Memphis, Division II; and

WHEREAS, a native of Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania, Chief Justice Holder attended Allegheny College from 1967-68 and graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1971; and

WHEREAS, Justice Holder earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence from Duquesne University School of Law in 1975; during her attendance, she served as the Recent Decisions Editor of the *Duquesne Law Review*; and

WHEREAS, from 1975 to 1977, Chief Justice Holder stood as the senior law clerk to the Honorable Herbert P. Sorg, Chief Judge, United States District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, a founding member of the Tennessee Lawyers' Association, Justice Holder is an esteemed member of the American Bar Association, the Tennessee Bar Association, and the Memphis Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, during her extensive legal career Justice Holder has offered sterling service as an editor of the *Memphis Bar Forum*, 1987-1991; Chair of the Tennessee Bar Association Commission on Women and Minorities, 1994-96; Trustee of the Tennessee Bar Foundation, 1995-1999; Secretary of the Tennessee Bar Foundation, 1996-1999; and Master of the Bench, Leo Bearman, Sr., American Inn of Court, 1995-97; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Chief Justice Janice Holder has received numerous honors, including the Memphis Bar Association's Sam A. Myar Award as its outstanding young lawyer in 1990, the Charles O. Bond Outstanding Jurist Award in 1992, and the Divorce and Family Law Section Judge of the Year Award for 1992; and

WHEREAS, as a judge for the State of Tennessee, Janice M. Holder has proven herself to be a gifted attorney, dedicated jurist, consummate professional, and loyal citizen, earning the praise of members of the Bench and Bar alike; and

WHEREAS, for these qualities, she is most deserving of her selection to serve as Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, and this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Chief Justice Holder for her dedication to justice and equality under the law and her sterling record of public service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Justice Janice M. Holder for her laudable and astute service to the State of Tennessee, congratulate her on being named Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, and extend to her our wishes for much success as she continues her distinguished judicial career.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.